ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REFORMATORY SCHOOL

AT

YERAVDA

FOR THE

YEAR 1912.

III
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From

N. M. PAJNIGAR, Esquire, B.A.,
Superintendent, Reformatory School, Yeravda.

To

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Bombay Presidency, Poona.

29th March 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the working of the Reformatory School, Yeravda, for the calendar year 1912.

Number in School.

2. (*a*) The year opened with 178 boys on the register, of whom 153 were in the Reformatory and 25 were employed on licenses. The number of boys admitted in the course of the year was 35 by magisterial sentences and 2 by transfer from the Yeravda Central Prison, and the number released during the same period was 45; 38 of these latter were released owing to the expiration of the term of their sentences and the remaining 7 by order of Government, 5 under section 13 (*2*) of the Reformatory Schools Act for having attained the age of 18 years and 2 under section 31 (*b*) *ibid* on their parents having executed a bond to be responsible for their good behaviour and education. Seven of the licensed juveniles and 1 of the errand boys trusted for out-door work absconded during the year. Four of the former and 1 of the juveniles that had absconded in the previous year were re-captured by the police and returned to the Reformatory. Three juveniles died (*vide* paragraph 8 *infra*) of whom 1 was an inmate of the Reformatory and 2 were from among the licensed juveniles. The total number of juveniles under detention on the last day of the year under report was thus 164 and 19 of these were out on licenses. The average daily number of boys actually in the Reformatory for the year was 145·2 against 159·2 for the preceding year. The low average was due to temporary want of accommodation owing to some of the old blocks of sleeping cells having been pulled down and the new dormitories sanctioned to be built in their place being under construction, for which reason inquiries for accommodating fresh juveniles had to be refused.

(*b*) Of the 164 boys in the Reformatory on the last day of the year, 4 were under twelve years of age, 20 were under fourteen years, 62 were under sixteen and the remaining 78 were either of or over sixteen years.

(*c*) Among the 164 boys, 81 or nearly 50 per cent. were other Hindus; 37 were low caste boys, such as Máhárs, Mangs, Dheds, etc.; 33 were Mahomedans; 7 Brahmans and 6 Native Christians. The percentage of the two last named classes increased to 4·2 and 3·6 respectively against 3·9 and 2·2 in the preceding year.

(*d*) The 164 juveniles were divided according to their vernaculars as under:—65 Márathis, 38 Gujráthis, 27 Hindustánis, 13 Sindhis, 10 Kánaris, 10 Telugus and 1 Arabic.

(*e*) One hundred and fifty-six of the total number of 164 belonged to the British Territories and the remaining 8 to His Highness the Nizám's State.

Admissions.

3. (*a*) The total number of admissions for the year was 35 as stated above; 5 of them were under twelve years of age, 8 were twelve 12 years old, 7 thirteen years old, 9 fourteen years old and 6 fifteen years old.

(*b*) Twenty-seven of them were convicted of theft, 4 of house-breaking by night, 1 of lurking house-trespass, 2 of criminal breach of trust and 1 of retaining stolen property. The value of stolen property was considerable in a few cases, being Rs. 824 in one case, Rs. 382 in another, Rs. 371 in a third and Rs. 165 in a fourth case. It was below Rs. 100 but above Rs. 10 in thirteen other cases and less than Rs.10 in the remaining eighteen.

(*c*) The sentences passed on these 35 newly admitted juveniles were three years' detention in 17 cases, four years' in 9, five years' in 8 and six years' in the remaining 1 case.

(*d*) The district of Poona contributed 7 out of this total of 35 newly admitted boys, Násik 5, Bombay and Ahmedabad 4 each, Belgaum, Dhárwár, Sátára and Nagar 2 each, and Thána, Kolába, Bijápur, East Khándesh, Kaira, Sukkur and Hyderabad (Deccan) 1 each.

(*e*) 17 out of these 35 were first offenders, 13 had one previous conviction already and of the rest 1 had three and 4 had four previous convictions.

(*f*) Thirty of them were illiterate and 5 could read and write their own vernacular.

Conduct and Punishment.

4. The general behaviour of the immates was as usual satisfactory, though there was a deal of quarrelling and bickering amongst themselves. The total number of school offences for the whole year in an average population of 145 was 32 and the total number of individuals concerned in them was 39. There were 5 cases of petty assaults on one another, 8 of thefts of tools or articles of clothing, 3 of causing hurt, 5 of insolent behaviour towards the subordinate authorities, 3 of attempts to escape, 2 of possessing prohibited articles and 6 of other minor breaches of rules. The punishments awarded were flogging in 7 cases, being those of causing serious hurt and assaults; penal diet in 4, reduction from monitorship in 2 and caning on hand from six to twelve stripes in the remaining cases.

Discharged Juveniles.

5. (*a*) The number of boys discharged during 1912 was 45. Of these 18 had learnt agriculture and gardening, 9 carpentry, 9 book-binding and type-setting, 4 blacksmith's work and 5 painting. Twenty of the 45 boys having been discharged in the second half of the year the reports regarding their occupation had not become due at the end of the year. Of the remaining 25 about whom reports have been received 11, *i.e.*, nearly 46 per cent. are following the trades learnt by them in the Reformatory, 7 are employed as labourers or private servants, 3 are living with their parents, 1 was re-convicted and 3 could not be traced.

(*b*) Information regarding the after-career of the boys discharged in the three years preceding the year of report is given in the statement, "Reformatory Schools—II" appended to this Report. It will be seen that out of the 116 juveniles that were discharged in the preceding triennium 38 are following the occupations they learnt in the Reformatory, 41 are engaged in other industries such as service, cart-driving, field-labour, etc., 5 are living with their parents, 6 are dead and 2 were re-convicted. The remaining 24 remain untraced, the percentage of such boys being 20·7 and that of the boys employed in honest living 76·4.

Licensed Juveniles.

6. (*a*) Twenty-five boys were serving out on license on the first day of the year and 39 new licenses were issued during the year. Twelve of the licensed boys were released in the course of the year owing to the expiration of their term of detention. The licenses of 23 were cancelled mostly because the conditions

of work, such as work for longer hours or at night or on Sundays and holidays, etc., did not suit them and they failed to satisfy their employers. Seven absconded, of whom 4 were re-captured by the police, 2 died (1 from plague and the other from tuberculosis) and 1 was convicted under section 411, Indian Penal Code, some stolen property having been found in the room in which he was living. The number of boys remaining on license on 31st December 1912 was 19, of whom 5 were employed in a metal factory, 3 in the "Deccan Herald" Press, 4 in oil or grinding mills, 6 as gardeners and 1 as a carpenter. Of these 19, 4 have been on license for more than a year and a half, 8 for over six months and the rest for three months or a little longer.

(*b*) The boys selected for out-door work continued to do their work satisfactorily and to behave well with one exception, in which case the boy who had been sent to deliver flowers in the Cantonment violated the trust reposed in him and absconded. He had been doing such work for six months before he escaped and had not given during that period any cause to suspect his good faith.

Marks and Gratuity.

7. The monthly average number of boys who earned gratuity by diligence and good conduct in the school was 145·4. The total amount of gratuity earned was Rs. 451-9-6 and the amount of gratuity disbursed to discharged boys during the same period Rs. 341-7-4 against Rs. 489-8-6 and Rs. 342-13-9, respectively, of the preceding year. The average earning per boy was Rs. 7-9-5 against Rs. 9-0-4 for the year 1911.

Health and Sanitation.

8. (*a*) The general health of the inmates during the year was good. The total number of cases treated in the school hospital was 37, of which 6 were cases of malarial fever, 5 of diarrhœa, 3 of jaundice, 2 of dysentery, 2 of tubercle of the lung, and the rest were other minor ailments, such as sore eyes and throat, abscesses, gumboils, caries of tooth, scabies and tonsilitis. One of the 2 cases of tubercle was treated for a long time in the school hospital, but was ultimately, on the advice of the Medical Officer, transferred to the Sassoon Hospital, where it terminated fatally. The other case ran a very rapid course, becoming fatal in three days as it was an acute attack. One of the licensed boys who was employed on a farm at Kirkee caught the plague and died in the Hospital for Infectious Diseases to which he had been removed on the appearance of the symptoms of the disease. The number of diarrhœa cases was again much greater than in the preceding year being as many as 5 against 1. But they occurred mostly in the rainy season and were due to some climatic peculiarity more than to any local cause. As a prophylactic against malaria, quinine in three-grain doses was administered to every boy in the Reformatory weekly, throughout the year. The average daily number of sick boys was 1·2 against 1·6 of the previous year.

(*b*) Major C. S. Lowson, M.B., I. M. S., Superintendent of the Yeravda Central Prison very kindly supervised the work of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon of this institution for almost the whole year and had to give a good deal of his time and attention to look after the patients from time to time, especially in the serious cases mentioned in the paragraph above, for which special thanks are due to that officer.

Buildings and Accommodation.

9. The new buildings, the commencement of which was noted in my last report, are nearing completion. They are due to be finished by the end of the current month.

Diet and Clothing.

10. These remained unaltered just as in the previous years.

Industries.

11. The trades taught to the boys in this institution are gardening, carpentery, smith's work, painting and varnishing and book-binding, including type-setting. The total number of books bound and repaired during the year was 4,202. The number of carriages repaired and done up was 78 and that of other miscellaneous articles manufactured, such as chairs, stools, picture-frames, etc., 54 against 103 and 257 respectively in the preceding year. The gross value of all manufactures for the year was Rs. 3,382-1-3 against Rs. 4,642-0-2 in the year before. There has been a continuous decline in business for two successive years from Rs. 5,469-2-2 in 1910 to Rs. 4,642-0-2 in 1911 and Rs. 3,382-1-3 in 1912. This decline is not peculiar to this institution, but is the result of a general slackness all over Poona. The amount expended on raw material and the usual deductions to be made for depreciation of tools and plant as well as bad debts written off aggregate to Rs. 2,666-1-6. Hence the net profit from manufactures was Rs. 715-15-9 against Rs. 1,087-14-3 in the preceding year. The number of boys engaged in the several trades was 83, of whom 31 were learning carpentry, 11 blacksmith's work, 25 painting and varnishing and 16 book-binding.

(*b*) In the agricultural branch also the year happened to turn out unfavourable, owing to unseasonable and irregular rainfall. The *jowari* crop was almost a failure and on the other hand the expenditure was much larger than in the preceding year, owing to scarcity and high price of fodder. The results so far as vegetables were concerned were much better, more than Rs. 400 worth of vegetables having been raised during the year, most of which was supplied to the school for boys' rations. The total value of garden produce was Rs. 510-2-0 and the working expenses were Rs. 466-10-3. The number of boys pursuing agriculture as a trade was 62.

(*c*) In September last at the annual flower show of the Agri-Horticultural Society, the Reformatory exhibited good many varieties of Capsicums, Tomatoes, Pumpkins, Custard Apples, etc., and won first prizes for the two former and third prizes for the two latter.

Maintenance Charges.

12. The gross maintenance charges for the year amounted to Rs. 22,763-4-4 against Rs. 23,605-5-7 of the preceding year, the decrease being due to the reduction in the number of inmates throughout the year as already noted in paragraph one of the report. The total profit realized during the year amounted to Rs. 759-7-6 and the total miscellaneous receipts to Rs. 16-1-6. The amount to be recovered from Native States for juveniles belonging to their territories and confined in this Reformatory was Rs. 1,408-13-11. Thus the net cost to Government for the up-keep of the institution in the calendar year 1912 was Rs. 20,578-13-5 against Rs. 20,650-2-8 in 1911. It may be noted that in spite of the average daily number of inmates for the year being smaller the expenditure has been almost equal to that of the preceding year, the reason of which is that enhanced prices of provisions prevailed throughout the twelve months of the year of report, whereas in 1911 such had been the case for only half of the year.

Establishment.

13. The strength of the school establishment remained the same as in the preceding year.

Education.

14. (*a*) The school was examined by the Deputy Educational Inspector, Poona, on the 16th August last and the result on the whole pronounced by him was very fair. The Gujarati classes were for a second time found weak and their result affected the general results of the school adversely. Out of the 70 pupils examined in standards I to V 51, *i.e.*, 66·2 per cent. passed in

all heads and in the Infant Standard all the 22 pupils presented satisfied the examiner.

(*b*) Nine candidates were presented for the First Grade Art Examination and 6 of them passed fully and were awarded the certificate. Two of the candidates were also to appear for the Second Grade Art Certificate but as both the examinations were held together on the same day and at the same time they could not do so.

(*c*) On Saturday afternoons there are readings from the Hindu and Mahomedan sacred books with short addresses sometimes on the principal virtues and the necessity of good conduct.

Exercise and Recreation.

15. One hour daily in the afternoon is devoted to recreation and games. For this purpose the boys are divided into three batches and each batch has either gymnastics or physical drill with native games or cricket by turn. In the monsoon cricket matches are played with the teams of the neighbourhood and the city. Sunday afternoons are as a rule given to a long walk by the whole school. In addition to these on holidays such as the New Year's day, Diwali, Shimga, Ashura, etc., they are taken out sight-seeing. On the anniversary of the Delhi Darbar day they were given a holiday. In the morning all the boys and the whole of the staff assembled in the drawing hall. The proceedings began with the singing of the Gujarati and Marathi versions of the National Anthem. This was followed by a brief recapitulation of the history of the occasion and an address on the benefits of the British rule to India and prayers for its permanence. Sweetmeats were distributed to the boys and the rest of the day was spent by them in amusements and jollity.

Visiting Committee.

16. The monthly inspection meetings of the Committee of Visitors were regularly held each month according to the programme and the annual general meeting was held on the 17th June last. Mr. R. D. Prior, M.A., who was then Acting Director of Public Instruction, presided. The annual report of the school for the year 1911 was considered and accepted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

N. M. PAJNIGAR,

Superintendent, Reformatory School, Yeravda.

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REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.—I.

Number in the School in 1912.

Schools	1

Pupils.

Number on the first day of the year	178
Admitted during the year	35
Recaptured during the year	5
Discharged during the year	45
Escaped during the year	8
Reconvicted during the year	1
Number on the last day of the year	164

Education on admission.

Able to read	21
Illiterate	143

Religion.

Hindus	125
Mahomedans	33
Christians	6

Instruction.

Taught agriculture	68
Taught other industries	96

	Rs. a. p.
Net expenditure	20,578-13-5

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.—II.

After-conduct of boys discharged during the three years preceding the year of report.

1. Total number discharged in the three years	116
2 Number discharged who were taught agriculture	36
3. Number in entry (2) occupied in agriculture	13
4. Number who were taught other trades and handicrafts	80
5. Number in entry (4) occupied in the trades and handicrafts	25
6. Occupied in industries not taught them in the school	41
7. Unemployed or with friends	5
8. Reconvicted	2
9. Died	6
10. Untraceable	24

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